

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2006

CALIFORNIA HALIBUT UPDATE

Beginning April 1, 2006, Fish and Game Code (FGC) Section 8494 requires that any vessel using bottom trawl gear in the California halibut fishery must possess a valid California Halibut Bottom Trawl Vessel Permit (CHBTVP) issued by the Department of Fish and Game. At the time of publication, regulations had not been adopted by the Fish and Game Commission to implement the requirements for a CHBTVP.

Please visit the Department's Marine Region web site at www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/index.html or contact Mr. Gary Stacey, Regional Manager, Marine Region, at (562) 342-7108 or email Gstacey@dfg.ca.gov for more information.

DEADLINE TO APPEAL FOR TRANSFERABLE LOBSTER OPERATOR PERMIT

Any commercial fisherman who possessed a valid Lobster Operator Permit that was notified by the Department that he/she does not meet the qualifications for a Transferable Lobster Operator Permit, may appeal in writing with documentation or copies of fish landing receipts to the Department's License and Revenue Branch, 3211 "S" Street, Sacramento, CA 95816. The appeal must be received by the Department or, if mailed, postmarked on or before March 31, 2006. Any request postmarked or presented after March 31, 2006 will not be considered.

NEW DEADLINE TO RENEW LOBSTER OPERATOR PERMITS

Section 122, Title 14, of the CCR was amended to require Lobster Operator permittees to renew their permits on or before April 30th each year. Applications received in person at a Department office or postmarked from May 1 through May 31 will be assessed a late fee.

APPLYING TO TRANSFER A LOBSTER OPERATOR PERMIT

A notarized letter requesting a transfer of the Transferable Lobster Operator Permit, original of a valid Lobster Operator Permit, a copy of the proposed permittee's commercial fishing license and payment of the \$500 nonrefundable transfer fee, must be submitted to the Department's License and Revenue Branch, 3211 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95816.

Limit on Permit Transfers

- Applications for the 10 transfers allowed for the 2006-2007 permit year will be accepted beginning on or after April 1, 2006. **Note: 2006-2007 Lobster Operator Permit transfer applications may not be postmarked prior to March 31, 2006.**
- Applications will be processed in the order received. If on any given day the number of applications received is greater than the available number of transfers, the Department will conduct a drawing to determine which application(s) shall be processed. After 10 applications have been received, any additional transfer applications will be returned to the lobster operator permittee.
- Not more than 10 applications to transfer a permit shall be processed by the Department during each license year (April 1 through March 31). Beginning April 1, 2008, there is no limit on the number of transfers that may be processed during a license year.

DEADLINE TO APPEAL FOR INITIAL SOUTHERN ROCK CRAB TRAP PERMIT

Any applicant who is denied initial issuance of a 2005-2006 Southern Rock Crab Trap Permit, may appeal in writing to the Department's License and Revenue Branch, 3211 "S" Street, Sacramento, CA 95816. The appeal must be received by the Department or, if mailed, postmarked on or before March 31, 2006. Any request postmarked or presented after March 31, 2006 will not be considered.

TANNER CRAB TRAP VESSEL PERMITS

At the time of publication, Section 126, Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), was adopted by the Fish and Game Commission

but not approved by the Office of Administrative Law or filed with the Secretary of State. These regulations would create a Tanner Crab Trap Vessel Permit. Please check the Commission's web site at www.fgc.ca.gov/2005/proposedregs05.htm. You may also contact your local Department office for more information.

FEDERAL AND OTHER REGULATIONS

FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Federal regulations are in effect for many California fisheries including Coastal Pelagic Species (Pacific sardine, Pacific mackerel, jack mackerel, northern anchovy, and market squid), groundfish and salmon. For information regarding federal fisheries regulations please contact: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Southwest Region, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213, (562) 980-4030. You can also obtain regulations and other fishery information from the following NMFS websites: Southwest region, web site at:

- swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/fmd/cps/cps.htm (for coastal pelagic species),
- www.nwr.noaa.gov (for groundfish),
- www.nwr.noaa.gov (for salmon),
- swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/fmd/std.htm (for highly migratory species).

Regarding the Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCA) boundaries, please contact the NOAA Fisheries Groundfish Team in Seattle, WA., about NMFS policies and regulations at (206) 526-6150 or www.nwr.noaa.gov.

ROCKFISH CONSERVATION AREA

All California commercial fishermen need to be aware of the RCA. RCAs restrict the use of certain gear types due to their potential of interacting with overfished groundfish. For more information refer to Federal regulations.

PACIFIC HALIBUT REGULATIONS

The 2006 commercial season and regulations will be set early in 2006 by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). For current regulations, please contact: International Pacific Halibut Commission, P.O. Box 95009, Seattle, WA 98145-2009, (206) 634-1838, Fax (206) 632-2983 or www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/default.htm.

A free license is required in Area 2A for all commercial vessels and for charter vessels which retain Pacific halibut. Applications are available from the IPHC, or Department offices in Eureka or Fort Bragg.

FEDERAL GROUND FISH PERMITS

As of January 1, 1994, limited entry permits for groundfish are required aboard all vessels fishing groundfish trawl, longline, and fishpot (trap) gear under the limited entry quota and regulations (limited entry gears). Longline and fishpot vessels without permits, along with all other gear except trawl, are allowed to continue fishing in open access fisheries. Trip limits and other management measures are used in the open access fisheries to keep their harvest within the historic levels of that segment of the fleet not receiving permits. For further information contact: Northwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 7600 Sand Point Way NE Building #1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700, (206) 526-4353, Fax (206) 526-6736 or www.nwr.noaa.gov.

SALMON REGULATIONS

The National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region, will publish and distribute the ocean salmon fishery regulation booklets containing the complete regulations (50 CFR Part 661) near mid-May. Any in season changes to the federal regulations will be announced on a telephone hotline at (800) 662-9825 or (206) 526-6667 and by U.S. Coast Guard Notice to Mariners broadcasts on Channel 16 VHF-FM and 2182 kHz.